

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Previously presented) An assembly for operatively attaching a wear member to a support structure, wherein the wear member and support structure, respectively, have a first and second passage, which are co-extensive and form a common passage when the wear member is operatively coupled to the support structure, the assembly comprising:

a resilient pin retainer receivable in the first passage, the pin retainer being substantially non-load bearing in respect of wear member-removal forces during use of wear member ; and

a pin insertable within the pin retainer and, when inserted, extending through the first passage and into the second passage for operatively locking the wear member to the support structure.

2. (Original) An assembly for operatively attaching a wear member to a support structure, wherein the wear member and support structure, respectively, have a first and second passage, which are co-extensive and form a common passage when the wear member is operatively coupled to the support structure, the assembly comprising:

a resilient pin retainer receivable in a non-rotatable position within the first passage, the pin retainer being threaded internally; and

pin means having threaded portions corresponding to the threaded

portions of the pin retainer, wherein when the pin means is inserted into the pin retainer by the application of torque force, the pin means extends through the first passage and into the second passage for operatively locking the wear member to the support structure, and in combination with the support structure, for bearing substantially all of the wear member-removal forces during use of the wear member.

3. (Previously presented) An assembly for operatively attaching a wear member to a support structure, wherein the wear member and support structure, respectively, have a first and second passage, which are co-extensive and form a common passage when the wear member is operatively coupled to the support structure, the assembly comprising:

a pin retainer receivable in the first passage, said pin retainer being threaded internally and being substantially non-load bearing in respect of wear member-removal forces during use of the wear member; and

pin insertable within the pin retainer and having threaded portions corresponding to the threading of the pin retainer wherein when the pin is inserted into the pin retainer, the pin extends through the first passage and into the second passage to operatively lock the wear member to the support structure.

4-8. Canceled.

9. (Previously presented) A method for locking a wear member to a support structure, wherein the wear member has a first passage and the support structure has a second passage, which are co-extensive when the wear member is operatively coupled to the support structure, comprising the steps of:

inserting a resilient pin retainer into the first passage in the wear member in a non-rotatable position, the pin retainer being substantially non-load bearing in respect of wear member-removal forces during use of the wear member;

coupling the wear member to the support structure so that the first and second passages are co-extensive; and

inserting a pin through the pin retainer, wherein the pin extends through the first passage and into the second passage to operatively lock the wear member to the support structure.

10-13. Canceled.

14. (Original) The assembly of claim 2, wherein the central longitudinal axis of the first passage is forward of the central longitudinal axis of the second passage to allow the pin means to tightly lock the wear member to the support structure.

15. Canceled.

16. (Previously presented) The assembly of claim 1 wherein a central longitudinal axis of the first passage is slightly offset from a central longitudinal axis of the second passage.

17. (Previously presented) The assembly of claim 1 wherein the pin contacts a surface of the first passage during use of the wear member as a result of wear-member removal forces.

18. (Previously presented) The assembly of claim 1 wherein the pin retainer is held in position in the first passage by the support structure when the wear member is operatively positioned on the support structure.

19. (Previously presented) The assembly of claim 1 further comprising retaining means for maintaining the pin retainer in a non-rotatable position in the first passage.

20. (Currently amended) ~~The assembly of claim 5~~An assembly for operatively attaching a wear member to a support structure, wherein the wear member and support structure, respectively, have a first and second passage, which are co-extensive and form a common passage when the wear member is

operatively coupled to the support structure, the assembly comprising:

a resilient pin retainer receivable in the first passage, the pin retainer being substantially non-load bearing in respect of wear member-removal forces during use of wear member ; and

a pin insertable within the pin retainer and, when inserted, extending through the first passage and into the second passage for operatively locking the wear member to the support structure wherein the retaining means comprise at least one substantially flat surface on the pin retainer and at least one corresponding substantially flat surface in the first passage.

21. (Currently amended) ~~The assembly of claim 1~~An assembly for operatively attaching a wear member to a support structure, wherein the wear member and support structure, respectively, have a first and second passage, which are co-extensive and form a common passage when the wear member is operatively coupled to the support structure, the assembly comprising:

a resilient pin retainer receivable in the first passage, the pin retainer being substantially non-load bearing in respect of wear member-removal forces during use of wear member ; and

a pin insertable within the pin retainer and, when inserted, extending through the first passage and into the second passage for operatively locking the wear member to the support structure wherein the

pin retainer has a band extending from its outer surface; and a groove in the wall of the first passage wherein the band is received in the groove to maintain the pin retainer in position when the pin retainer is inserted into the first passage.

22. (Currently amended) ~~The assembly of claim 1~~An assembly for operatively attaching a wear member to a support structure, wherein the wear member and support structure, respectively, have a first and second passage, which are co-extensive and form a common passage when the wear member is operatively coupled to the support structure, the assembly comprising:

a resilient pin retainer receivable in the first passage, the pin retainer being substantially non-load bearing in respect of wear member-removal forces during use of wear member ; and

a pin insertable within the pin retainer and, when inserted, extending through the first passage and into the second passage for operatively locking the wear member to the support structure wherein the pin retainer has a tapered outer surface having the outer end of the pin retainer narrower than the inner end of the pin retainer, wherein when the pin retainer is inserted into the first passage and the wear member is operatively positioned on the support structure, the pin retainer is held in position.

23. (Previously presented) The assembly of claim 3 wherein a central longitudinal axis of the first passage is slightly offset from a central longitudinal axis of the second passage.

24. (Previously presented) The assembly of claim 3 wherein the pin retainer and first passage have corresponding surfaces which retain the pin retainer in a non-rotatable position.

25. (Currently amended) ~~The assembly of claim 24~~An assembly for operatively attaching a wear member to a support structure, wherein the wear member and support structure, respectively, have a first and second passage, which are co-extensive and form a common passage when the wear member is operatively coupled to the support structure, the assembly comprising:

a pin retainer receivable in the first passage, said pin retainer being threaded internally and being substantially non-load bearing in respect of wear member-removal forces during use of the wear member; and

pin insertable within the pin retainer and having threaded portions corresponding to the threading of the pin retainer wherein when the pin is inserted into the pin retainer, the pin extends through the first passage and into the second passage to operatively lock the wear member to the support structure wherein the corresponding surfaces comprise at least one substantially flat surface on the pin retainer and at least one

corresponding substantially flat surface in the first passage in the wear member.

26. (Previously presented) The assembly of claim 3 wherein the pin retainer is held in position in the first passage by the support structure when the wear member is operatively positioned on the support structure.

27. (Previously presented) The assembly of claim 3 wherein the pin contacts a surface of the first passage during use of the wear member as a result of wear-member removal forces.

28. (Previously presented) ~~The method of claim 9A~~ a method for locking a wear member to a support structure, wherein the wear member has a first passage and the support structure has a second passage, which are co-extensive when the wear member is operatively coupled to the support structure, comprising the steps of:

inserting a resilient pin retainer into the first passage in the wear member in a non-rotatable position, the pin retainer being substantially non-load bearing in respect of wear member-removal forces during use of the wear member;

coupling the wear member to the support structure so that the first and second passages are co-extensive; and

~~inserting a pin through the pin retainer, wherein the pin extends through the first passage and into the second passage to operatively lock the wear member to the support structure wherein~~ and the pin is tightened in the pin retainer by the application of torque force.

29. (Previously presented) The method of claim 9 wherein the pin retainer and first passage have corresponding surfaces which cooperate to retain the pin retainer in the non-rotatable position.

30. (Previously presented) The method of claim 9 wherein the pin retainer is held in the first passage by the support structure when the wear member is operatively positioned on the support structure.

31. (Previously presented) The method of claim 9 wherein a central longitudinal axis of the first passage is slightly offset from a central longitudinal axis of the second passage.